

UT DALLAS AND IIE RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DISCIPLINE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UT Dallas brought home valuable recognition from a gathering last weekend in Houston of its university peers, an award citing its outstanding contributions to advancing the discipline of entrepreneurship.

IIE Executive Director Joseph C. Picken accepted the honor at the annual conference of the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers, a three-day event that brought together more than 340 university educators and center directors. The University of California, Berkeley and Temple University also received awards citing Outstanding Contributions to Advance the Discipline of Entrepreneurship. The winners in this and five other categories were announced at the Oct. 17 closing banquet of the conference, which took place at Rice University.



Outstanding work in promoting and supporting entrepreneurship education as a field of study led to IIE's award. To be eligible, the institute had to demonstrate its leadership in and contributions to local economic development, showing interaction with and service to the surrounding entrepreneurial community. Award criteria also focused on education development and mentoring: IIE provided examples of its assistance to other entrepreneurship centers, its outreach programs and its efforts to stimulate and encourage entrepreneurial activity across North Texas.

“It is clear that the GCEC judges recognized the tremendous impact that UTD’s Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship has had on advancing the discipline of entrepreneurship since its founding in 2006,” Donald F. Kuratko, executive director of the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers and the Jack M. Gill Chair of Entrepreneurship at Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business, said. “This is an exceptional honor, as it is bestowed by a judging panel of previous winners of the award. There is no greater honor than the recognition by your peers at other award-winning programs in entrepreneurship. We believe UTD stands as a proud representative of the very best in entrepreneurship centers.”



Membership in the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers, which was founded in 1996, totals 244 university-based organizations. Boston University, Saint Louis University, Syracuse University and Wichita State University are past winners of the Outstanding Contributions to Advance the Discipline Award.

“We were pleased and humbled to be acknowledged as one of the top entrepreneurship programs in the country,” Dr. Picken said. “This award specifically recognized the outstanding community outreach programs the institute offers, the unique venture development partnership between the IIE and the UT Dallas Office of Technology Commercialization and the collaborative nature of the institute’s engagement, both with the community and the other institutions of higher education across the state of Texas.”

The institute has been a team effort since its founding in 2006, Dr. Picken added, “with outstanding support from the administration and the deans, an active and engaged executive committee and advisory council, the tireless efforts of Assistant Director Nancy Hong and an outstanding cadre of student volunteers, sponsors and community supporters.”

The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UT Dallas joined the consortium in 2005, prior to its official launch in April 2006 as a collaborative initiative of all seven schools of the university. With a dual reporting relationship to the dean of the School of Management (for academic programs) and the vice president for research (for venture-development and outreach programs), IIE plays a major role in promoting cross-disciplinary academic and outreach programs, including cross-listed courses, joint-degree programs, venture-development programs, and broad-based community outreach initiatives involving each of the university’s schools.

The IIE and UT Dallas have also taken the lead in establishing the Texas University Network for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (TUNIE), an association of 25 Texas universities with programs in entrepreneurship and technology commercialization. Dr. Picken was a co-founder and serves as the executive director of TUNIE.